

The purpose (in my opinion) of CW is to provide a "barrier" to admission. CW or the tests keep the "undesirables" out, and let the rest of us (the majority) enjoy the hobby. Should the folks who aren't now licensed care? In my opinion, yes. Take the example of CB (albeit imperfect, but it's the best example we have and most of us understand it.) The vast majority of operators want to use it to get information on road conditions, etc. Yet a few insist on "marketing" sex and other things I don't want my family to be exposed to. Others consider it a "private" system and refuse to respond to even a reasonable inquiry from another motorist or operator. As a result, most of us have subsequently "disposed" of our CB gear and refuse to use the citizens band. In my opinion, the same thing will happen to ham radio if all barriers to admission are removed. So, the questions are 1. do we want a "barrier," and 2. what should it/they be? Most of us will not MAKE these decisions, but those who do will listen, particularly if a consensus evolves. I, for one, refuse to be affiliated with any group that admits everyone, even the undesirable types. I just don't have the time or patience to tolerate those people, and most others feel the same way. Let me assure you, I have no love for CW, or exams in general, but I consider them a necessity. BTW, let me also assure you that I am a licensed ham, along with the rest of my family. We put up with the code (my daughter was 8) and technical exams, and probably would again.